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**General and complete disarmament: assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them**

**Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Ireland, Italy, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sweden, Togo and Zimbabwe: draft resolution**

## Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them

*The General Assembly*,

*Considering* that the illicit proliferation, circulation and traffic in small arms impede development, constitute a threat to populations and to national and regional security and represent a factor contributing to the destabilization of States,

*Deeply disturbed* by the magnitude of the illicit proliferation, circulation and traffic of small arms in the States of the Sahelo-Saharan subregion,

*Noting with satisfaction* the conclusions of the United Nations advisory missions dispatched by the Secretary-General to the affected countries of the subregion to study the most appropriate way of halting the illicit circulation of small arms and collecting them,

*Welcoming* the designation of the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat as a centre for the coordination of all activities of United Nations bodies concerned with small arms,

*Thanking* the Secretary-General for his report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[1] and bearing in

[1] A/52/871-S/1998/318.

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mind the statement made by the President of the Security Council on small arms on 24 September 1999,[2]

*Welcoming* the recommendations resulting from the meetings of the States of the subregion held at Banjul, Algiers, Bamako, Yamoussoukro and Niamey to establish close regional cooperation with a view to strengthening security,

*Welcoming* the decision taken by the Economic Community of West African States concerning the renewal of the declaration of a moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of small arms and light weapons in West Africa,

*Recalling* the Algiers Declaration adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-fifth ordinary session, held at Algiers from 12 to 14 July 1999,[3]

*Emphasizing* the need to advance efforts towards wider cooperation and better coordination in the struggle against the illicit proliferation of small arms through the common understanding of the meeting on small arms held at Oslo on 13 and 14 July 1998[4] and the Brussels Call for Action adopted by the International Conference on Sustainable Disarmament for Sustainable Development, held at Brussels on 12 and 13 October 1998,[5]

*Bearing in mind* the Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons, adopted at Bamako on 1 December 2000,[6]

*Taking note* of the millennium report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations,[7]

*Welcoming* the Programme of Action of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 9 to 20 July 2001,[8] and calling for its expeditious implementation,

*Recognizing* the important role which the organizations of civil society play in detection, prevention and arousing public awareness in efforts to curb the illicit traffic in small arms,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the declaration of the African Ministerial Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation on the Continent held in Abuja on 9 May 2000,[9] encourages the Secretary-General to pursue his action in the context of the implementation of resolution 49/75 of 15 December 1994 and the recommendations of the United Nations advisory missions, aimed at curbing the illicit circulation of small arms and collecting such arms in the affected States which so request, with the support of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and in close cooperation with the African Union;

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[2] S/PRST/1999/28; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1999*.

[3] A/54/424, annex II, decision AHG/Decl. 1 (XXXV).

[4] See CD/1556.

[5] A/53/681, annex.

[6] A/CONF.192/PC/23, annex.

[7] A/54/2000.

[8] A/CONF.192/15, chap. IV.

[9] A/55/286, annex II, decision AHG/Decl. 4 (XXXVI).

2. *Encourages* the establishment in the countries of the Sahelo-Saharan subregion of national commissions to combat the illicit proliferation of illicit small arms, and invites the international community to lend its support wherever possible to ensure the smooth functioning of the said commissions;

3. *Welcomes* the Declaration of a Moratorium of the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa, which was adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States in Abuja, on 31 October 1998,[10] and encourages the international community to support the implementation of the said moratorium;

4. *Encourages* civil society organizations and associations to be involved in the efforts of the national commissions to combat the illicit traffic in small arms and their participation in the implementation of the Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa as well as in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

5. *Encourages* cooperation between State organs, international organizations and civil society in combating the illicit traffic in small arms and supporting operations to collect the said arms in the subregions;

6. *Calls upon* the international community to provide technical and financial support to strengthen the capacity of civil organizations to take action to combat the illicit trade in small arms;

7. *Takes note* of the conclusions of the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Economic Community of West African States, which was held in Bamako on 24 and 25 March 1999, with respect to modalities for implementing the Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development, and welcomes the adoption by the meeting of a plan of action;

8. *Takes note* of the conclusions of the African Conference on the implementation of the Programme of Action "Needs and partnerships", held in Pretoria, South Africa, from 18 to 21 March 2002;

9. *Invites* the Secretary-General, and those States and organizations in a position to do so, to provide assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to consider the matter and to report to it at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them".

[10] A/53/763-S/1998/1194, annex.